



February 25, 2008

Anthony Covacevich
City Manager
255 South Kansas
Weslaco, TX 78596

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Dear Mr. Covacevich:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit Estero Llano Grande State Park, the Weslaco Wing of the World Birding Center. The State Parks Division of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department received significant help during the 80th Legislative session. We received additional funding that is having a very positive effect at our park. Increased funding has allowed us to gain an additional full time professional position (Park Ranger IV – Park Naturalist) and regain a Maintenance Park Ranger I previously lost due to budget cut backs.

The much needed additional assistance will assist in meeting our mission which is to provide opportunities for activities that promote an appreciation of birds and other wildlife, nature study, and habitat stewardship. Estero Llano Grande State Park strives to be a model outdoor classroom with exceptional education, interpretation and recreation opportunities. Therefore the additional funding has positively impacted Estero Llano Grande State Park by providing us additional staff, equipment and supplies needed to promote these activities along with assisting in protecting, restoring, and managing critical Rio Grande Delta habitat for birds and other wildlife.

In our second year of business, as the public are becoming aware of this new birding/nature destination, we have noticed increased visitation and revenue generated. A large number of visitors to the park are out-of-state and/or out-of-country visitors. As we work toward marketing and promoting Estero Llano Grande State Park, our visitors have become a great marketing tool for the park through word of mouth. Visitors claim to enjoy the park's flora and fauna along with the warm hospitality our staff has to offer.

In addition to our non-local visitors, we work toward targeting visitation from our local community and school groups by providing fun, safe and educational programs that families and school children can enjoy. We would like our local community to feel a vested interest in our park. Plans are to continue to improve Estero Llano Grande State Park recreationally for all to enjoy. As you can imagine our local City Partners and the Chamber of Commerce are excited about future



Take a kid
hunting or fishing

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Visit a state park
or historic site



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improvements at the park since tourism has become a major contributor to the economy of the City of Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley.

I will stay in contact with your staff concerning a visit. Perhaps a good time would be early this spring when the weather is pleasant, the spring bird migration is occurring, and beautiful butterflies are abundant amongst our native flowering plants and butterfly gardens.

Sincerely,

Martha (Marcy) Garcia
Park Superintendent



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